

IN THE SMALL CLAIMS DIVISION OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Plaintiff(s)

vs. Defendant 1:

Defendant 2:

Defendant(s)

STATE OF FLORIDA - NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF(S) AND DEFENDANT(S)

TO:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that you are required to attend using the following link or phone number on:
(Day of Week) _____, **(mo/day/year)** _____, at _____ a.m./p.m.
for a Pretrial Conference/Mediation and for hearing as to reasonable attorney fees in the event of default.

Use this link or phone number to attend the hearing using Meeting ID: 977 0317 2123

<https://zoom.us/j/97703172123> OR Call-in Number: 1-786-635-1003

- Multiple hearings are scheduled at this time, join promptly and wait to be admitted.
- Set your profile name as your first and last name or set when entering the meeting.
- Though the hearing is virtual, proper decorum and appropriate attire is required with participants in a quiet setting and minimal external distractions.

**IMPORTANT - READ CAREFULLY THE CASE WILL NOT BE TRIED AT THAT TIME. DO NOT
BRING WITNESSES - APPEAR IN PERSON OR BY ATTORNEY**

**WHOEVER APPEARS FOR A PARTY MUST HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO SETTLE FOR ALL
AMOUNTS FROM ZERO TO THE AMOUNT OF THE CLAIM WITHOUT FURTHER CONSULTATION.
FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS, INCLUDING COSTS,
ATTORNEY FEES, ENTRY OF JUDGMENT, OR DISMISSAL.**

The defendant(s) must appear in court on the date specified in order to avoid a default judgment. The plaintiff(s) must appear to avoid having the case dismissed for lack of prosecution. A written MOTION or ANSWER to the court by the plaintiff(s) or the defendant(s) shall not excuse the personal appearance of a party or its attorney at the PRETRIAL CONFERENCE/MEDIATION. The date and time of the pretrial conference CANNOT be rescheduled without good cause and prior court approval.

Any business entity recognized under Florida law may be represented at any stage of the trial court proceedings by any principal of the business entity who has legal authority to bind the business entity or any employee authorized in writing by a principal of the business entity. A principal is defined as being an officer, member, managing member, or partner of the business entity. Written authorization must be brought to the Pretrial Conference/Mediation.

The purpose of the pretrial conference is to record your appearance, to determine if you admit all or part of the claim, to enable the court to determine the nature of the case, and to set the case for trial if the case cannot be resolved at the pretrial conference. You or your attorney should be prepared to confer with the court and to explain briefly the nature of your dispute, state what efforts have been made to settle the dispute, exhibit any documents necessary to prove the case, state the names and addresses of your witnesses, stipulate to the facts that will require no proof and will expedite the trial, and estimate how long it will take to try the case.

Mediation

Mediation may take place at the pretrial conference. Whoever appears for a party must have full authority to settle. Failure to have full authority to settle at this pretrial conference may result in the imposition of costs and attorney fees incurred by the opposing party.

In mediation, decision making rests with the parties. Negotiations in county court mediation are primarily conducted by the parties. Counsel for each party may participate. However, presence of counsel is not required. If a full agreement is not reached at mediation, the remaining issues of the case will be set for trial. Mediation communications are confidential and privileged except where disclosures are required or permitted by law.

If you admit the claim, but desire additional time to pay, you must come and state the circumstances to the court. The court may or may not approve a payment plan and withhold judgment or execution or levy.

If you desire to file any counterclaim or set-off to plaintiff's claim it must be filed in this court by you or your attorney in writing at least 5 days prior to the above date. Filing a counterclaim, set-off, motion or answer will not relieve you of your obligation to appear in court on the above date.

RIGHT TO VENUE. The law gives the person or company who has sued you the right to file in any one of several places as listed below. However, if you have been sued in any place other than one of these places, you, as the defendant(s), have the right to request that the case be moved to a proper location or venue. A proper location or venue may be one of the following: (1) where the contract was entered into; (2) if the suit is on an unsecured promissory note, where the note is signed or where the maker resides; (3) if the suit is to recover property or to foreclose a lien, where the property is located; (4) where the event giving rise to the suit occurred; (5) where any one or more of the defendants sued reside; (6) any location agreed to in a contract; (7) in an action for money due, if there is no agreement as to where suit may be filed, where payment is to be made.

If you, as the defendant(s), believe the plaintiff(s) has/have not sued in one of these correct places, you must appear on your court date and orally request a transfer, or you must file a WRITTEN request for transfer in affidavit form (sworn to under oath) with the court 7 days prior to your first court date and send a copy to the plaintiff(s) or plaintiff(s') attorney, if any.

A copy of the statement of claim shall be served with this summons/notice to appear.

Dated on _____.

J.K. "JESS" IRBY, ESQ., CLERK OF COURT

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352-337- 6237) at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice-impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at atinterpreter@circuit8.org.